



CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources, Council Chair
Cruz Bustamante, Lieutenant Governor
Alan Lloyd, Secretary for Environmental Protection
Sheila Kuehl, State Senator, Ex officio Member
Pedro Nava, State Assemblymember, Ex officio Member

September 27, 2005

Honorable Richard Pombo
Chairman
Committee on Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 90515-6201

Dear Chairman Pombo;

I am writing on behalf of the California Ocean Protection Council, established pursuant to the California Ocean Protection Act of 2004. The council is charged with coordinating and improving the protection and management of California's ocean and coastal resources.

At our meeting on September 23, 2005 the council voted to send a letter once again reinforcing our position and the position of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Any pending federal legislation regarding Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leasing must retain all protections from the Congressional leasing moratorium and should seek to make these protections permanent.

The council first raised this issue in its April 4, 2005 letter to members of Congress regarding the pending energy bill. In that letter the council stated its opposition to any effort to lift the Congressional moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing activities since 1982.

Governor Schwarzenegger's made his position very clear in a May 13, 2005 letter to Congressional leaders on the pending energy bill. He strongly opposed any new oil and gas leasing off California and any efforts to weaken the right of California, or other states, to protect their coastlines. He went on to urge the U.S. Congress to strengthen the language of the legislative moratorium and to prohibit federal funds from being spent on any lease planning activities on the Outer Continental Shelf. The California Legislature has also weighed in on this issue. In August 2005, the State Assembly adopted Assembly Joint Resolution 14 requesting the U.S. Congress to continue the federal offshore oil and gas leasing moratorium for fiscal year 2006 and beyond.

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California is unified in its strong support for the OCS oil and gas leasing moratorium. The California Ocean Protection Council respectfully requests that future congressional legislation exclude any language that threatens this moratorium that has been protecting our shores more than two decades.

Sincerely,



Mike Chrisman
Chairman, California Ocean Protection Council
Secretary for Resources

cc. President Bush